

## House Republican Press Release

August 3, 2006  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Letter to the Editor



To the Editor:

As one who shops regularly at the IGA market on Stratfield Road, I was extremely disappointed to learn that it is being forced to close. This store had been operated as a neighborhood market by several owners for more than 50 years.

The end of one of the last neighborhood markets represents a significant loss for the entire town. We all should be concerned that yet another chain store is taking its place.

It is one more step in the fading away of any vestiges of the small town character that has made Fairfield such a great place to live. Every citizen should be upset that Fairfield and other local towns are losing their unique sense of place, the neighborhood feel, the distinctiveness of one town from the next.

Instead, small towns are becoming homogenized and commoditized. Each community will soon have the same big, national chain stores on almost every corner. Each retailer will operate under similarly bland architecture and signage. There will be a complete loss of charm and individuality to our communities.

It was encouraging that so many residents became involved in the effort to save the market but sad that the property owner did not listen. There is absolutely a proven need for a small market from the number of signatures gathered from petitions.

We need a townwide community initiative to preserve and support small businesses. A plan must be developed to work with town officials and community leaders to achieve this goal and have the ability to keep those businesses that are needed and wanted in the town.

Cathy Tymniak  
State Representative